

Application No.: 10/535,035

Docket No.: JCLA12543-R

REMARKS**Present Status of the Application**

Advisory Action mailed on January 15, 2008 has been received and carefully considered. In the Advisory Action, all previously made rejections were remained. In response thereto, Applicants have amended claim 1 and added new claim 8, and therefore submit a request for continued examination.

The amendment to claim 1 can be found from the specification, especially paragraphs [0016] through [0019]. Support for the new claim 8 can be found from Fig. 1. As such, there is no new matter entered by the amendment.

Entering of the amendment and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully solicited.

Discussion of Office Action Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

The Office Action rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being unpatentable over Liang et al. U.S. Patent 6,649,037 applied as obviousness.

Amended claim 1 now recites "a plurality of desalting compartments alternately arranged" and "the first ratio is higher than the second ratio" which are neither taught, disclosed, nor suggested by Liang or any of the other cited references. (Emphasis added).

As currently amended, the first ratio and the second ratio are clearly defined as ratios of anion exchangers to cation ion exchangers of the concentrating compartments and the desalting compartments respectively.

Application No.: 10/535,035

Docket No.: JCLA12543-R

Corresponding to this limitation, Liang teaches: "a depletion compartment 30 and a concentrating compartment 40. Both of these compartments contained layers of mixed ion exchange resin. The resins used were 50/50 vol/vol MARATHON™ A anion resin and MARATHON™ C cation resin and the layer is 35 cm in depeth (col. 15; lines 9-15; emphasis added).

As recited above, Liang teaches a depletion compartment 30 and a concentrating compartment 40, both of which are filled with identical mixed ion exchange resin, which differs from the currently amended claimed invention which requires concentrating compartments filled with first ion exchangers having a first ratio and desalting compartments filled with second ion exchangers having a second ratio.

In another hand, about the first stage, Liang teaches an ion-depletion compartment 10, and ion-concentrating compartment 20. Liang also teaches that these two compartments are respectively filled with different ion exchangers (See col. 14; lines 60-66).

As such, the present invention as set forth in claim 1, as currently amended is submitted to be novel and obvious over Liang, or any of the other cited references, taken alone or in combination, and thus should be allowed.

New Claim

Claim 8 is newly added, depending upon allowable independent claim 1 and thus should also be allowed.

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Application No.: 10/535,035

Docket No.: JCLA12543-R

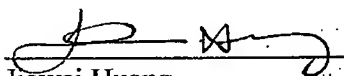
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the claims 1-8 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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4 Venture, Suite 250
Irvine, CA 92618
Tel.: (949) 660-0761
Fax: (949)-660-0809

Respectfully submitted,
J.C. PATENTS


Jiawei Huang
Registration No. 43,330